

A 2014 Preservation Week presentation

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HOW DOCUMENT SECURITY AFFECTS ACCESS TO MEMORY

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About Access to Memory

Yours

Mine

Others...



Two words about Benign Neglect

Bad Idea

Bound Paper v. Digital Text

- Keep Closed
- Put in box, closet, chest, bookshelf
- Limit exposure to elements, pests, sticky fingers
- Read Only
- Limit file opening
- Limit media carrier exposure to elements, viruses, sticky fingers

Only works for a short time...



So How Do We Keep Our Things Secure
and Accessible?

Centuries of Experience to draw
upon

Example of Locked Letters...



Paper Locked Letter

- ❑ Seal
- ❑ Folding
- ❑ Enclosure
- ❑ Cypher?
- ❑ Weaving
- ❑ = Tampering Visible

Digital Locked File

- ❑ Password
- ❑ Structure
- ❑ Watermark
- ❑ Encoding?
- ❑ Checksum / Hash
- ❑ = Tampering Visible

Opportunities and Challenges



If We

- Password Protect
- Encrypt
- Watermark
- Hide Content

Then We Must Understand and Know
How to Reverse These

Strategies for Accessing Digital Memory



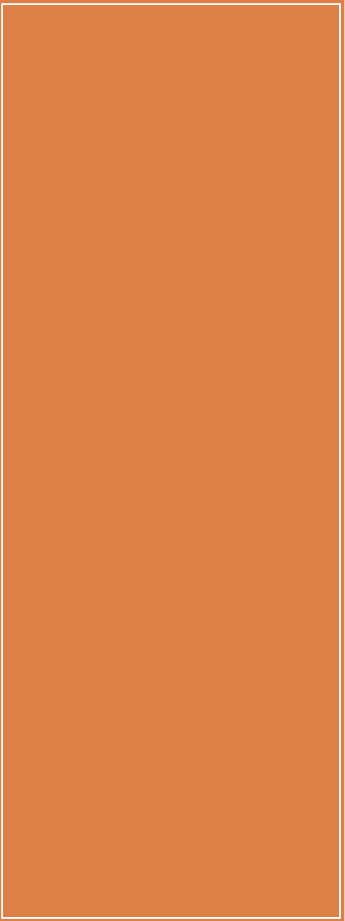
- Separate the digital file from the carrier media
- Understand how the digital file was created
- Determine the file format of the content
- Use software to open and view the files

Strategies for Accessing Digital Memory



- Separate the digital file from the carrier media
 - Disk Imaging is a good strategy
- Understand how the digital file was created
 - Look at file header information for clues
- Determine the file format of the content
 - You'll understand the software you need
- Use software to open and view the files
 - If you don't have the programs, there are options

Challenges ... and Opportunities

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- Legal Environment
 - Digital Forensics Methods
 - Preservation Planning Strategies
 - Tolerance for Ambiguity
 - All Should Not Be Saved

These Are Our Professions

Archivists

Curators

Preservation

Records
Mgrs

Librarians

- We keep digital material secure and make it useable over time
- We employ preservation strategies, software and hardware
- We are in it for the long term...

A Few Resources



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- Personal Archiving, Library of Congress
 - Day of Digital Death
 - *The Signal*, Digital Preservation blog
 - Digital Preservation Management Tutorial (dpworkshop.org)